



# California Fair Political Practices Commission

September 11, 1989

Bruce T. Olson  
Executive Director  
American Grand Jury Foundation  
1015 12th Street, Suite 6  
Modesto, CA 95354-0811

Re: Your Request for Advice  
Our File No. I-89-402

Dear Mr. Olson:

You have requested information regarding the financial interest disclosure requirements for grand jurors. Enclosed is a copy of a letter to a presiding judge explaining the Commission's determination that county conflict of interest codes are required to provide for financial disclosure by grand jurors, and suggesting the types of economic interests which grand jurors should disclose. Also enclosed is a copy of the Form 730 (Statement of Economic Interests for Designated Employees) which grand jurors and other officials and employees of public agencies use to disclose their economic interests.

While we have not prepared materials specifically for grand jurors, our staff is preparing to hold seminars around the state which will deal among other things with adopting conflict of interest codes for grand jurors. Enclosed is information regarding those seminars.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (916) 322-5901.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Donovan  
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John G. McLean".

By: John G. McLean  
Counsel, Legal Division

KED/JGM/aa

Enclosures

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June 29, 1989

Mr. John H. Larson, Chair  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Larson:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of the most current information available regarding the Statement of Economic Interest form requirements for California grand jurors.

It would be most helpful if I could have this information in time for the Tenth Annual Grand Jury Seminar, August 17-19, 1989. I am enclosing a copy of our most recent newsletter in which more information about the Seminar is provided.

Sincerely,

Bruce T. Olson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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Enclosure

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1015-12TH STREET, SUITE 6 MODESTO, CA 95354-0811 PH: 209-527-2287

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# NEWSLETTER

## GRAND JURY EXCHANGE SEMINAR

EDITOR: Bruce T. Olson, Ph.D., Executive Director  
1988-1989 Series

1015 - 12th Street, Suite 6, Modesto, CA 95354-0811; (209) 527-2287  
Volume 6, Number 2 June 1989

### August Seminar Plans Now Being Completed

The Tenth Annual Grand Jury Exchange Seminar will be presented August 17-19, 1989, in Modesto. The Seminar is a half day longer this year than it has been in the past. This will allow grand jurors to attend one more workshop than they have in previous years. We have scheduled 55 workshops; these will be presented by a total of more than 70 presenters. The expanded Seminar is the result of suggestions from many grand jurors who have requested more workshops. We will send several mailings about the Seminar to grand juries between now and August. Despite our efforts to inform all newly appointed grand jurors in California's 58 counties, some grand juries do not seem to receive the information. If you would like to help distribute information about the Seminar to next year's grand jury, please call or write us.

### Jury Selection: Do It Openly!

Richard A. Hill, Foreman, Mendocino County Grand Jury

In spite of the reputation of the "Emerald Triangle," Mendocino County is unlike many rural Northern California counties. Those of you with whom I've talked at the Grand Jury Exchange Seminars have assured me of that. However, until this year, we had been out of step with some of the more progressive counties.

I attended the August 1988 Seminar and returned home inspired by Superior Court Judge Frank Francis from Nevada County; Chris Adams, former Forewoman from Contra Costa County; and Jim Lindberg, Foreman from Orange County. We weren't doing it wrong, but we sure could do it a lot better!

"It" was the way we had traditionally selected our grand jurors. We must open up that process instead of limiting the field to friends and

acquaintances of the former jurors and the judges of the County. Judge Francis challenged me when he said that his small County sent out notices to more than 150 organizations, as well as to all the media, announcing invitations to all the residents to serve on the Grand Jury. He also indicated that there could be some negative consequences as a result of the former "good ole' boy" selection process.

Our judges all agreed to attempt to duplicate Nevada County's process. Since we are on a calendar year, in October of 1988 we began sending information to approximately 75 organizations throughout the County. Everything from service clubs and senior organizations to garden clubs and special support groups were

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### Better Responses Through Better Recommendations and Findings

Notice that the headline refers to "recommendations and findings." Penal Code §933(c) requires designated local government officials to respond to recommendations and to findings. Few local governments respond to findings, and one or two don't even respond to recommendations. Grand juries can make it easier for local government officials to prepare responses by summarizing both recommendations and findings in the front of final reports. Just before the summary of recommendations and findings,

include the exact words from the Penal Code section that govern them. Point out that responses must address findings and recommendations. Here are some ideas for writing recommendations:

- Keep them short and simple—25 words or fewer.
- Write as few recommendations as are necessary for each investigation.

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# California Fair Political Practices Commission

July 6, 1989

Bruce T. Olson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
American Grand Jury Foundation  
1015 - 12th Street, Suite 6  
Modesto, CA 95354-0811

Letter No. 89-402

Dear Dr. Olson:

Your letter requesting advice under the Political Reform Act was received on July 3, 1989 by the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you have any questions about your advice request, you may contact John McLean, an attorney in the Legal Division, directly at (916) 322-5901.

We try to answer all advice requests promptly. Therefore, unless your request poses particularly complex legal questions, or more information is needed, you should expect a response within 21 working days if your request seeks formal written advice. If more information is needed, the person assigned to prepare a response to your request will contact you shortly to advise you as to information needed. If your request is for informal assistance, we will answer it as quickly as we can. (See Commission Regulation 18329 (2 Cal. Code of Regs. Sec. 18329).)

You also should be aware that your letter and our response are public records which may be disclosed to the public upon receipt of a proper request for disclosure.

Very truly yours,

*Kathryn E. Donovan*  
Kathryn E. Donovan  
General Counsel

KED:plh